FEEDBACK

BOOK REVIEW

REVIEW:— Don't Be A Soldier!
The Radical Anti-War Movement in North London 1914-1918. by Ken Weller; Journeyman/London History Workshop Centre; £3.25.

After the tribulations which invariably beset working class historians, Ken Weller's history of working class opposition to the first World War in what is nowadays the London Borough of Islington, is at last in print. And it is well worth the wait. In contrast to history as taught by the bourgeoisie, reformists and Marxist-Leninists alike which concentrate on the big names the Leaders, this history has as its subjects the ordinary men and women who together were the rank and file of the socialist opposition to the imperialist slaughter.

The centre of this opposition was the North London Herald League which united regardless of sect or faction the supporters of the *Daily Herald*, then the voice of what what Ken calls 'the rebel milieu'. The official *Daily Citizen* which had the support support of the Labour Party and TUC bureaucracy was turgid in the extreme and disappeared after three years. As Ken relates, the NLHL's supporters were most libertarian and anti-Parliamentarian.

The day after war broke out the NLHL organised a meeting against it addressed by Walter Ponder who had been a 'prime mover' in a mass anarchist anti-war demo in 1913. That this demonstration had a number of marches leading to it shows widespread support for libertarian ideas at the time. Another anarchist speaker was Henry Sara who later became a Communist and then a Trotskyist.

Of particular interest is Ken's description of the North London Local of the Industrial Workers of the World/IWW that met at the NLHL's premises. This group had a working class base in the Hispano Suiza engine factory and it's members were also active in the Worker's Committee one member being secretary of the London Building Workers' Committee. To raise cash, the group printed its own money which members could purchase and redeem at a later date.

Sadly, the group suffered an outbreak of the spy mania which from time to time infects revolutionary organisations, five members being arrested as a result of a tip off by an informer. A trial was held, but the defendant was acquitted. Just as well for the group had members who having cut their teeth in the violent class struggles in Australia, Latin America and the US West gave informers short shrift.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The local was far from being pacifist and seemed to have a store of arms, some of these later ending up in the hands of Irish Republicans. It is a pity they could not have been used of the capitalists who had waxed fat on the needless deaths of so many young workers in the war.

The war led to substantial growth for the IWW in Britain, it having its own hall in Whitechapel. In 1919 it was one of the four national movements conveing the Hands Off Russia Movement. Spellbound by the Russian Revolution and its seemingly libertarian slogan of 'All Power to the Soviets' many IWW members joined the Communist Party of Great Britain at its formation. Many did not stay long, not a few departing after the suppression of the Kronstadt revolt. But by then it was too late for the emergence of a mass working class libertarian movement, the revolutionary wave having ebbed.

One of the most appealing aspects of a very appealing book is Ken's thumbnail sketches of the militants who fought the war often in the face of extreme violence from jingo thugs. With an economy of words unusual for historians, he gives us fascinating insights into the lives and activities of people who, because they were not the victors, have been all but forgotten. Yet they are surely more deserving of attention than the sell-out bureaucrats whose biographies fill the shelves of libraries and bookshops.

If libertarians are to learn the lessons of the past and use those lessons as tools fro the building of the future many more such histories are needed.

T.S.L.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Reality Now. Summer '85. Canadian anarchist paper containing poems, news and an historical piece on the Metis Resistance and Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Price is a mystery but an oversea's sub is $6.00 US. Available from:
PO Box 6326, Stn A., Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5W 1P7

Libertarian Workers Bulletin. May-October 1985. Australian review with international bias. Price 50 cents. Available from:
PO Box 20, Parkville 3052, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Scottish Prisoner. No.2. Printed and published by the Scottish Prisoners Support Committee. Most articles are concerned with the atrocious conditions in Scottish prisons and highlight several cases of injustice against Scottish prisoners.
Price 20p. Available from:
PO Box 219, Glasgow G31 4DZ Scotland.

Bulldozer. Summer '85. Another magazine concerned with political prisoners. Articles in this issue include a Vancouver 5 update. Price $1.75. Available from:
PO Box 5052, Stn A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5W 1W4

El Libertario. May 1985. Second issue of the Argentine Libertarian Federation paper. Contains much news of Latin-American struggles. Price 100 pesos. In Spanish language. Available from:
Brasil 1551, (1154) Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Kate Sharpley Library & Documentation Centre News Bulletin. No. 1. Summer '85. Despite the lack of a proper home since the 'socialist' council in Lambeth started court action against 121 Anarchist Centre the KSL has continued its work of collecting material relating to the anarchist movement. It has its own indexing system and for this requires the odd £5 note for the purchase of titles and foolscap size wallet folders.

The News Bulletin lists the Index Summary and explains other resources that it has built up, other libraries it has contacted and assisted and much more. A list of new titles in the KSL is given along with plans for the future, such as reprinting and reviewing, an exhibition of posters and pictures etc.

They request to be put on mailing lists. To be mentioned to other groups and publishers and for you to take out a subscription to the newsbulletin. £2.00 to receive it, cheques made payable to C. Longmore. (or equivalent value in stamps).
K ate Sharpley Library
121 Railton Road London SE24 Britain.

Apologies to our readers for missing an issue. We ran out of money and needed a holiday. But we're back!
Black Flag Collective.



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF AUTHORITY

ZOO-PEOPLE BARRED

The deep and genuine committment to freedom shared by the rulers of the world is also shared by those in charge of the various sporting bodies. Footballers, golfers and others are liable to find themselves up before kangeroo courts on charges of bringing the game into disrepute, should they dare to say anything negative about the authorities in charge of their particular sport. No doubt those in charge of various sporting bodies would like to end the right to criticize the government, too. 'Bringing H.M. Government into disrepute'.

In Reality this petty totalitarianism is rampant amongst the country's institutions even those completely non-political and non-industrial. Another example is London Zoo, where it is an offence (you get sacked) for the staff to say anything about the running of the zoo to the press or public. Talking to one of the zoo-keepers can make you see why they are worried about anyone opening their mouths. For a start, the 'caring animal-lovers' in charge have failed in the matter of recruting zoo-keepers with anything like the love of animals which the public expects them to have. Recently ChiChi (apologies if they name's wrong) — everybody's favourite cuddly Panda — died. The reaction of one keeper was to say (quite seriously) 'that means less shit to clean up'.

Staff are strongly discouraged from fraternising with those animals that like human contact. A Buffalo surplus to the requirements was slaughtered to feed the cats, only it couldn't be used to feed the carnivores in the end because somebody made a mess of killing it and it ended up with too much lethal injection in it to be fit for any other animal to eat. Out of four baby elephants born recently three have gone mad — this may be through no fault of the zoo authorities, but you won't hear any such facts mentioned in the 'adopt an animal' campaigns, and it's immediate dismissal if a member of staff lets on about the previously friendly elephant that attacked a keeper after being moved to London Zoo.

There's a couple of other printworthy stories which we can't mention to protect our source, but the Health and Safety people may be interested to know that staff have been driving a truck around the Zoo with very dangerously defective brakes.

The general impression given to this writer suggests that some of the workers and management at London Zoo should be behind bars instead of some of the animals. . . a temporary 'Bureaucratic Man' exhibit as a follow up to their 'Urban Man' exhibit?

SOURCE : A little birdy.

LETTER

Dear friends,

A *few* words about the small editorial piece *SWP on Anarchism* in the last *Black Flag Quarterly*. My first disagreement comes earlier than yours. Anarchists do not renounce power, only power over others, we (I?) want each to have their own equal share of power to guarantee their personal freedom. I (we?) do not renounce all leadership; I'll not follow anyone's orders, but in almost every aspect of life, natural leaders are thrown up on a certain issue or task. These are usually accepted tacitly as having better ideas or more experience and given the respect due to that. The difference between us and others is that we will not allow that temporary practical leadership to be solidified into a concrete authority, it fluctuates, different people take centre stage at different times. This to me seems 'natural'.

Our strategy is not to, as they say, 'counterpose the absolute freedom of the individual and the spontaneous rebellion of the masses'; the first is not a strategy but an aim and a principle, the lack of which in our present society is one reason for being an Anarchist. Secondly, I havn't met anyone into *purely spontaneous* rebellion of the masses. I though Anarchist tactics ranged from building syndicalist unions, with the aim of expropriating the factories from the Capitalist and State, to building the new world in the shell of the old; to stirring up trouble generally through propaganda and direct action.

Of course power is the fundamental problem! The Capitalists' ownership of capital gives them power, if it didn't they wouldn't be a problem. The State is 'the product of the division of society into antagonistic classes'; but those divisions are caused initially by the imbalance of power between groups in the society, before Capitalism, ie. the power of controlling the money system, with which the newly emerging Capitalist class could buy the raw power of guards, political authority and the Law.

The people do not require the revolutionary Party to lead them to paradise, they need to want to be free to run their own lives, and to take a moral stance over the injustices caused by the present system. The power of the mass picket is different from the power of the workers State. There is the power of direct action, the application of your own body to affect your own life, or in mutual aid of other people; and there is the power of a back-seat Leader using the people as cannon-fodder, I refuse to be anyone's cannon-fodder and give all others the same free freedom.

The SWP game plan goes as follows:
1). Gradual building of revolutionary Party with the most conscious elements of the working class.
2). Eventual Capitalist crisis, mass awareness, led by the organised, disciplined Party, under the central committee to smash the Capitalist State.
Then?
3a). The central committee of the Party disband themselves and the Party, with all power going to the soviets/councils.
or
3b). The disciplined Party bump off all 'undisciplined' elements (that's us) create their own militia, and impose a tyranny worse than what we had before.

The article says that @s have not come up with much of an alternative. My only answer to that would be a list of all the Marxist-Leninist Party led revolutions where 3b). hasn't happened.....

Long wasn't it?

It is strange to hear the SWP claiming another group is inadequate for the working class in Britain, they haven't wanted a revolution. My limited experience however has been that most people are predisposed to to Anarchist 'theory' in spirit, rather than Marxist, though they are wary of the name and think 'anarchy wouldn't work' because it is so far from common experience for people. Also the other groups spend a lot of their time misrepresenting Anarchy as chaos. At the Austin Rover strike, I was on one gate as a supporter; one shop steward maybe because of the clothes I was wearing must have said Anarchy (meaning chaos) every three sentences. They're scared, they don't want us planting our subversive ideas into the minds of their (they hope) future subservient followers.

Marxism-Leninism has been shown to be bad news for one and all; as things get worse, as they will, we have an edge, and must take advantage of it. Anarchism is about to explode as the force of the future, be prepared.

Peace, Freedom and Anarchy,
J the @.

3876
BF

No. 137

BLACK FLAG

40p

THE ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

12-8-'85

RESISTANCE IN OCCUPIED AFRICA



Armed State thugs versus Africans — who's got who on the run?

The State of Emergency in South Africa is a clear signal that the South African State powers are afraid that the resistance is getting out of hand. The drastic response measures are typical, to be expected when the authorities feel threatened. Rumours of insurrection and civil war are rife. The Western powers believe that a revolutionary war would inevitably lead to a Marxist State and therefore **they will uncompromisingly support the South African authorities in their attempts to crush the resistance. Industrial action within and outside South Africa will speed the process of the breakup of the South African economy and State. The industrial workers in the gold and diamond mines and the dockers of the world hold the key to real sanctions.**

The last thing the Western powers need is a Soviet satellite in that part of the world, with access to the uranium, gold and diamond mines. Therefore any draconian measures adopted by the South African government, no matter how bloody or ruthless, will be backed by the all important beneficiaries of South African exports and by those governments whose national economies are tied in with the wider economical concerns of the multi-nationals that have a stake in South African resources.

And there is also, too, the strategic importance of South Africa's geography and the Cape, with the Simonstown base occupied by the USA and shared with Britain and Australia as a listening post for the southern hemisphere.

The neighbouring African countries are powerless to intervene and in any case benefit by preferential treatment in terms of South African investment, privileged trade deals, etc.

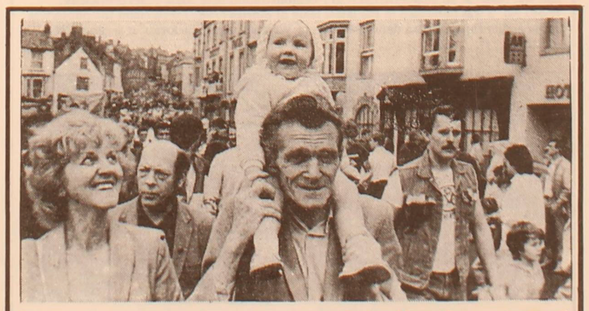
Since the Emergency was declared there have been more riots, a ten-fold in increase in arrests, more hit-squad type killings, disappearances, forced detentions.

There has also been more attacks by Blacks against collaborators, strikes and incidents of non-cooperation.

Generally the Emergency has been imposed as part of a defensive campaign against an offensive that has culminated in a period of intense activity from Black trade unionists, guerrilla groups and communities. The resistance has been both organised and spontaneous. There are now, for the first time, more Blacks in unions in South Africa than Whites. The number of Black strikes recently has multiplied, as also the number of guerilla actions. Basically the authorites are being attacked on all sides. From the workers, in the communities and by armed actions. The ANC has attacked a number of prime installations, including a coal conversion plant and a nuclear reactor. There have also been strikes in the mining industry and elsewhere. The ANC is currently going through a period of expansion. Their immediate objective is to continue the sabotage campaign aimed at destabilising the economy. A network of ANC cells is growing within the townships and neighbourhoods. The ANC does not however seek class revolution or a non-capitalist state, but a 'mixed economy' state, liberated from White dominance.

As we go to press, National Union of Mineworkers (100,000 members) have announced their intention to strike at 18 gold and 11 coal mines from August 25th if the Chamber of Mines bosses do not improve their pay offer. The miners also issued an ultimatum for an end to the State of Emergency within 72 hours, and threatened to boycott white businesses if the State of Emergency was not lifted.

In May two mining houses, Anglo-American and Anglo-Vaal dismissed some 17,000 miners in a dispute on the Witwatersrand, those sacked occupied company hostels and were tear-gas attacked by police who then supervised their deportation to 'homelands'.



One youngster enjoying a good view of crowds at the Durham Miners' Gala *See page 2*

SCAB MERGER CHANGES COURSE

A new rightwing pressure group has recently formed within the trade union movement. Its vice-chairman is none other than scab miners leader David Prendergast and its name is, not surprisingly, called 'Mainstream'. The organising secretary of this group is an EETPU (the electricians union, whose leadership undermined and strenuously condemned the 12 month miners strike) research officer. Mainstream is a sort of Militant Tendency of the extreme right within the union movement. The chairman of Mainstream is Terry Duffy, president of the engineers union, the AEUW. Mainstream hopes to function as a catalyst for organising the centre and rightwing of the union movement. Already it boasts caucases in several unions (in addition to the break-away miners unions, teachers union), the ISTC (steel workers union), the NUR (a railworkers union) and the CPSA (a (a civil servants union).

Mainstream has financial and other backing from the Freedom Association, a far-right organisation with links to the Tory Party and various neo-fascists. At the moment Mainstream is putting across that it is merely a 'ginger group' to 'break the stranglehold of the left within the trade union movement'. Its ambitions though are far different. In the long term Mainstream intends to recruit a membership from all the main unions with the objective of transforming trade unions from reformist, pro-capitalist bodies, into all-out bosses unions/staff associations on the model being developed by EETPU, etc.

In the last issue of **Black Flag** we reported on moves by EETPU, the AEUW and the ASTMS to form a rightwing alliance within the trade union movement. We referred to it as a 'scab alliance' and as an attempt to establish a charter for a 'new unionism' that the Tories would welcome if not encourage. Since then the AEUW has had its annual conference at which delegates rejected outright the leaderships' proposal for the merger or 'scab' federation as a 'rival' to the TUC (or, more accurately, as a consolidating force within the TUC). Delegates now fear expulsion from the TUC because of the unions' policy to accept state funding for secret ballots. But the AEUW leadership (as also the EETPU leadership) argue — probably correctly — that if it came to a clash the courts will no doubt prevent expulsion on legal grounds. Nevertheless the membership has state unequivocally to its executive that an alternative to the TUC is not to be attempted a s a conting-ency to possible expulsion and that reconciliation ought to be sought instead. A fresh ballot on the policy of accepting state funding is, as a result, to be taken in October.

In the final analysis the AEUW has gone for a policy of changing the TUC from within, rather from without. Perhaps we shall be hearing more of Mainstream in the future and its trotskyist tactics now that scabs are wising up to politics?

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K. OMORI

DON'T LET THIS MAN BE MURDERED BY THE JAPANESE STATE!



See page 6

BLACK FLAG – BLACK CROSS
BM HURRICANE, LONDON
WC1N 3XX
Published, typeset and layout
BLACK FLAG COLLECTIVE
Printed by Aldgate Press.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
12months: £12 inland
£15 surface, £19 Air.
6months: £6.50 Inland
£8 surface, £10 Air.

HOME NEWS

MINERS

GOOD NEWS – CHARGES DROPPED!

The Court cases against 79 men charged with riot and unlawful assembly during the miners strike have been dropped.

The Prosecution at Sheffield Crown Court offered no evidence against the men on August 5th, 1985.

The 79 were arrested during a police riot at Orgreave coking plant in 1984.

Kent miners had their jail sentences reduced on Appeal recently.

LIVE AID

Live Aid has come in for a lot of criticism in the left wing press, whilst being praised to the hilt by the capitalist press (it's the sort of thing that really assuages a *Guardian* reader's conscience). Much of the left-wing criticism has been along the lines that 'Egos for Ethiopia' didn't change anything.

Well are these lefties so naive as to think it could! A bunch of musicians who are well and truly part of the capitalist dream. Indeed, music has been used in the past 30 years or so as a diversion, channeling people's activities into escaping the system, rather than abolishing it. If Live Aid had even set out to change anything, it probably would have been stopped, and it certainly would never have attracted the likes of Harvey Goldsmith.

Live Aid set out to do *one* thing only, and that was to raise money for the victims of the famine in Ethiopia, Sudan and the rest of Africa. It succeeded. We can criticise it over the way it was done, elitist and following a very narrow framework of reference (mainly white Anglo-American rock, with a smattering of soul), the poor performances of the artists etc. We can criticise its aims for not going far enough, but then we ought to ask ourselves if anything more would have been possible. Ultimately, though, the best thing that's come out of Live Aid is the confirmation that masses or ordinary working people do care about the others who share this planet. The compassion of ordinary people is a welcome relief from the cynical 'gifts' of governments and the rich.

GOVERNMENT HIDEOUT

COBRA (Cabinet Office Briefing Room), the central government decision-making body is to have its own new purpose built bunker beneath the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall.

COBRA brings together those Cabinet members representing all the Emergency Services and is headed by the Prime Minister. COBRA also includes representatives at the highest level, from the Army, the RAF and the Navy as well as MI5 and MI6.

The function of COBRA briefly, is to advise and implement policy on emergency situations, industrial emergencies, civil disturbances, and in times of civil or internation warfare. (A detailed report on the role of COBRA is given in the last *Black Flag Quarterly*).

According to Duncan Campbell of the *New Statesman*, the bunker is known by the code name Pindar. It is a six-storey deep, secured premises and costs around £20 million. It will be directly connected to the Cabinet Office and to Downing Street.

At the moment the construction work is nearing completion. It will eventually become the permanent base for all the COBRA meetings. In the lead-up to a nuclear war the COBRA bunker would be used as the mian operational decision-making centre prior to evacuation to the main government bunker at Corsham in Wiltshire.

The Pindar bunker will have its own escape routes should warfare be of the civil or class variety.

Moriarty.

END OF THE ROAD

On Thursday 18th July, Crosville announced their intention to fall in line with Government policy. In an attempt to drive people away from public transport the government demanded the bus company should be deregulated, ie. face more competition. The results will be drastic. At Crewe it will mean cutting back to ONLY 9 buses, a loss of 20 or so.

The job losses will be high – there is even a possibility that the bus station will have to be sold off! The 20 or so buses that will no longer be used will be scrapped.

This is just at Crewe depot. Imagine the picture throughout Cheshire and most of Wales. In Wales the bus service will be almost non-existant. Only 6, out of over 20 depots will retain any work and some of this will be negligable.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE. . .

For years Thatcher and her fascists have been ruling over us with an iron fist. They have been attacking the working class with increasing ferocity. The miners strike and Stonehenge show clearly that they will tolerate no effective opposition. Only by uniting and FIGHTING BACK can we protect ourselves and our communities. If we refuse to take a stand now, the State will go and on defeating us and destroying everything we have.

Crewe Support Group, who have raised over £10,000 to help the miners, are now ready to offer support to the bus workers. The Group welcomes new people willing to contribute their ideas and energies to the class struggle, in an open and non-authoritarian organisation. They can be contacted via:
BLACK CAT, Box BC, 7 Camm Street, Crewe, CHESHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM STOP THE CITY COURT CASE.

On the 8th of July, at Birmingham Magistrates Court, 8 people who were arrested together in a van in Birmingham the night before Stop the City (11.11.'84), were committed to stand trial at Crown Court on charges of going equipped to cause damage and conspiring to cause a public nuisance. The first charge arises because on searching the van the police found a bag containing paint and glue. The evidence put forward of the conspiracy is that all the defendants were together in a van the night before Stop the City and that when arrested and shoved in cells they all refused to answer questions (despite this being your 'right' – the State giveth and the State taketh away –) and disrupted the smooth running of the nick by their raucous singing and shouting. The police found a leaflet around this time, in the police station suggesting actions for STC such as to cause noise and damage, and to carry out blockades etc. and that if you were arrested people should carry on with similar behaviour in custody. The police claim that because the defendants were 'carrying-out' the latter part of the leaflet, they must have been intending to carry out the former and cause disruption in the city.

This is a very important case, it is a test case, if these people are found guilty, this will invite and encourage the police to arrest people before or on a demonstration for this conspiracy charge, therefore being able to pick out anyone who *they* consider a possible 'troublemaker or ringleader'. We must stand together and resist this real threat to our ever diminishing liberty.

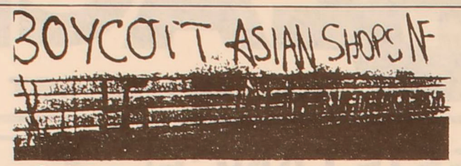
Contact c/o Campaign Against Police Repression, *Box CAPR, 83 Blackstock Rd LONDON N4.*

CONFERENCE AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION

September 14th. 12-6pm
Haringey Community Centre, Brabant Road. London N22
Speakers from the Peace Convoy, Mining communities, Animal Rights Activists, Anti-Apartheid Campaigners, Stop the City people, and others.

A proposal to hold a march/protest through the streets of London, past several police stations and Law Courts is planned for the future. More information available from:
Conference Organising Group, BOX CAPR 83 Blackstock Road, London N4. Telephone; Pete (01) 341 5340.

THE NATIONAL FRONT IN NEWCASTLE



Fascism in Newcastle – graffiti outside Walkergate Metro

The National Front are increasingly showing their faces in Newcastle. There have been petrol bombings and other attacks on Asian families and shops. The British National Party operates from Gateshead, where there is also a large Jewish community. Every major football ground in the North, notably Newcastle's St James' Park is frequently used to sell racist papers and distribute propaganda. Also, the NF frequently hold paper sales in the centre of the city.

This general increase in activity led, a few years ago, to the formation of the Tyneside Anti-Fascist Association. Local Anarcho-Syndicalists were actively involved in the group, as well as Communist Party, SWP and Labour Party members. This situation changed last year when the CP attempted to wrench control of the Group and the Anarchists, most of whom held posts, were forced to resign. The Association has since become largely a CP dominated breeding ground for Popular Frontists, with the involvement of Church Leaders and all types of liberal. The Police Federation are affiliated to the organisation.

It is disturbing to see the Left's disorganised and inconsistent attitude to Fascism in Newcastle. The Revolutionary Communist Party, for instance, argues for the formation of groups to beat up the NF every time they appear. This is all very well, but that does not make it any safer if you are black and walking home on your own on a dark night. It can be argued that, while you have to defend yourselves where necessary, the National Front should be first countered with propaganda. Using violence first is palying the Fascists' own game. The other extreme of the Left's attitude to Fascism is a leaflet recently circulated in Heaton, one of Newcastle's suburbs which seems to be one of the NF propaganda target areas. The leaflet, asking us to KEEP TYNESIDE FRIENDLY contained not one piece of political comment, and ended with the hilarious statement 'Help Heaton Labour Party keep Heaton a friendly place to live'. Newcastle DAM-IWA also produced a leaflet for distribution in Heaton which attempted to point out the relevance of a class struggle analysis in defeating all Fascists including the bosses and those in the Government.

SOURCE J ohn. Newcastle DAM

KINNOCK THE SCAB'S DAY OUT AT THE DURHAM MINERS GALA

A few weeks ago, Durham Miner's Gala saw the biggest get-together of the Labour movement leaders since the Miner's strike.

The question of whether or not to ask Neil Pillock the Scab has been the subject of much discussion in the Durham coalfields. Harrington Lodge had motioned that Kinnock should be kept away from what has historically been an opportunity for the Labour Leader to address the miners. However, a coalfield Council Ballot narrowly decided to invite him.

The March to the Gala field through Durham took us past the balcony of the Royal County Hotel, where Arthur Scargill, Dennis Skinner, Kinnock and various other officials were standing and applauding the marchers as they went past. Most syndicalists at the Gala were marching with the Gateshead Unemployed Action Group banner . When we got to be under the balcony we got out copies of a Clydeside Anarchists poster proclaiming 'We won't forget Kinnock the scab – Free the Prisoners', stopped the March and started chanting and yelling at the Pillock who continued waving and trying to smile at us, despite our somewhat negative feedback. Eventually he must have realised how stupid he looked, so he gave us the V sign instead. Scargill and Skinner were visibly amused at Pillock's embarrassment.

Later at the Gala, when Kinnock gave his speech he was continually heckled with shouts of 'scab' and 'class traitor' and slow hand claps. Some miners from South Yorkshire, who obviously had comrades in jail continuously shouted their names and called for their release.

Despite all this however, it must be pointed out that many of us were told to shut up, by people around us. When he finished his speech, there was half applause and half heckling. It is sad to reflect that there were actually people there at all who wanted to listen to him speak considering his scabbing on these people from day one of the strike.

Apart from all this however, the Gala was a good day out with colliery and jazz bands and singing in the streets, pubs open most of the day, a fayre and a generally good comradely atmosphere. It's good to keep up one's morale by coming to this sort of thing now and again, if nothing else.

SOURCE : **John. Newcastle DAM**

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

Can you spot the difference between the two almost identical photographs below? Photo No. 1 was published in *Black Flag* at the beginning of 1983 (Volume 7 No. 2 A) and was taken at an anarchist/CNT-AIT demonstration held some years previously. Photo No. 2 was published in the latest issue of *Sinews (1985)* who claim the photo was taken earlier this year at a demonstration in Vitoria against the arrest of several 'CNT-U' members.



PHOTO No. 1



PHOTO No. 2

Nice try, 'SINEWS', better luck next time!

INDUSTRIAL

Newcastle Fights Privatisation

A group of 280 Domestic workers at Newcastles's Royal Victoria Infirmary and Dental Hospital are fighting Newcastle Health Authority's plans to put the Hospital's cleaning contract out to private tender, or to implement cuts in hours and pay.

This would mean serious financial hardship to the already low paid (wages are only £1.72 an hour). The disasterous effects of privatisation have been seen over and over again in various parts of the country. For example, at Adenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge, where cleaners and other health workers have been on strike for over 6 months because of privatisation of cleaning services, standards have fallen dramatically. Cleaning surveys by the authorities' own panel and the community health council continue to show drastic shortfalls in cleaning standards. The problem was highlighted when on two consecutive days, theatres were found dirty and a day's theatre list had to be cancelled.

Over the past few months there have been various actions, including strikes and walkouts by domestics, canteen staff and porters. The Domestics have received much support from workers outside the hospital too. A recent visit to Easington Colliery raised £400. Another example of this widespread support is that the nearby University, which has strong links with the R.V.I. has collection boxes in all of its union buildings.

This support may by attributed to the informative and constant propaganda that is being put out by the strikers. Pickets at the main gates give out a strike bulletin, keeping other workers informed as to what is going on, and the pickets are always friendly and ready to chat to passers-by.

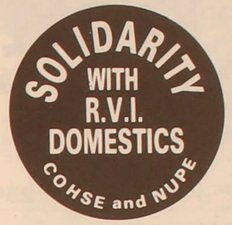
The Domestic's action culminated in a recent series of action in the week 24th–28th June, the Friday of which saw a meeting of the Area Health Authority, at which they would make the final decision whether to privatise or to accept in-house tender which would include job losses. On that day there was a large demonstration against privatisation. Also, on that day, most Domestics in other hospitals, and many other Health Service workers came out in support of the R.V.I. workers.

Militant (Trots in the Labour Party) had about 200 paper sellers, and the local *Socialist Workers Party* (Trots outside the Labour Party who have called for a merger with *Militant*, yet to be resolved?) distributed a very patronising leaflet which stated that 'The time for token action is over. The serious fight has to begin now' Obviously it was now time for this 'vanguard of the working class' (sic.) to lead the struggle and show the Domestics what they had been doing wrong.

Despite the very large demonstration, including miners, shipyard workers, transport workers among others, some of the trade union official's sense of solidarity seemed to be lacking. One C.O.H.S.E. official was overheard commenting that a group of miners carrying the Durham N.U.M. banner had 'no right to be on the March'! As the March got underway, it became apparent that the police must have had an almost free reign in deciding the route of the March, which although very scenic (encompassing a tour of one of Newcastle's nicest parks!) managed to avoid any of the working class areas of Newcastle's East Side. On arriving at the Freeman Hospital, where the Health Authority meeting was taking place, there was a needlessly large, provocative presence of police. There was a good feeling of solidarity as the Freeman Hospital workers cheered the march to chants of 'The workers united, will never be defeated!' This was immediately followed by an anti-climax as we all marshalled into a nearby park where various speakers were to tell us what we'd all heard before.

Later in the day, the Health Authority announced the tragic decision to accept in-house tender and were mobbed by the angry health workers who had been waiting for the outcome.

Since the Day of Action the Domestics at the R.V.I. have been working normally. Morale is now low, but it seems likely that they will soon renew their action. This week (sent in 6/7/'85) the Domestics marched to the Hospital, back to work, as the Miners had done. Other Health workers around Newcastle, who are under threat are now starting to take action and it seems possible that a united fight of health workers could take place.



The handling of the dispute by the joint union Committee obviously has its good and bad points and syndicalists can learn much from it. We can criticise from the outside like the SWP, but the only way as Anarchists that we can be in a position to argue for syndicalist ideas and tactics is to GET INVOLVED which none of us have done effectively yet. One thing we learnt from the Miners' strike was that workers in struggle appreciated the Mutual Aid that Anarcho-syndicalists provide, without it being accompanied by a dogmatic 'We know best' attitude and an attempt to flog our propaganda to them. As in all disputes, money is needed to maintain strike action. Please send donations and messages of support to:
Shona Gill, Secretary, Newcastle Health AuthorityJ oint Union Committee Against Privatisation, c/o NUPE, 'Southend', Fernwood Road, J esmond, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. NE2 **ITJ**
SOURCE : John, on behalf of Newcastle Direct Action Movement.

ISRAEL

Tens of thousands of Israeli workers joined the second general strike to hit Israel in a week to protest at Governmental emergency economic austerities, in July. Telephone, electricity, radio and television services were disrupted. The Leaders of the Histadrut corporatist trade union met with Government ministers to stop a plan to sack 10,000 public sector workers. Those facing the sack were 4,000 in the local authorities, 2,000 in ministerial departments, and an additional 4,000 in semi-government institutions like schools, colleges and universities.

Apart from the sackings, the austerity package imposed by decree by Labour Prime Minister Peres' coalition Cabinet meant huge cuts in public expenditure.

Wages and Salary indexation has been curtailed since October 1984, thus cost-of-living adjustments have ceased. Already bread prices went up 75 per cent and the price of milk, butter and eggs cost 65% more. Bus fares were doubled, electricity 50%, water by 80% and petrol 27%. All other goods rose by up to 40 per cent.

Wage and price freezes last December and tax increases have fueled frustration. Even the rich, those who own houses of more than £80,000 value have had their property tax increased! The shekel is also devalued by nearly 19% bringing its value against pounds sterling to 6,500.

Because of the religous character of the Zionist State and the Zionist union, the Histadrut, the conflicts between the workers and the State are shaking up the corporatist (Government/Employers/Trade Union agreement) system, at last.

PHILLIPINES

13 transmission lines linked to a newly completed nuclear power plant on the Bataan peninsula were damaged by simultaneous explosions. Military officials blamed 'communist rebels'. Non-violent priests and nuns denounced the action.

Syndicalist Organisation

As syndicalists we are for organisation at work, to take over the places of work and so change society. It cannot be changed from capitalism to a free society in any other way. The capitalist society is firmly anchored by its control over production and the economy. Protests in the streets may have effects on particular actions of one government or another *or not*; at the end of the day this does not change capitalism however violent or non-violent demos may be, they still remain just that.

The now universally accepted theory of the university radical professors that workerism is all wrong and is based on something they call 'the Protestant work ethic'; and that it is all based on materialism except that professors should get paid more, is rejected by us as is the theory developing out of it that we should reject work and form workers councils which will grow out of those who have never done any work.

We have also to reject the inborn trade union theory that divides the employed from the unemployed. It is not a distinction we should recognise: employment means exploitation. What we are fighting for is the right to participate in all the good things in life. We are not fighting for the right to be exploited!

Local councils need to be established – in the embryonic stage as groups within industry, or clubs outside, but aiming to become part of the whole community, to which all can belong whether wage earning or not, and within which people can be unionised irrespective of craft or industry, lack of employment, or any other artificial division.

As unionists they can work together as one big union and organise to take over industry.

One of the effects of institutionalised unemployment is that Statist propaganda tries to make people feel ashamed of being out of work and not contributing etc, partly to induce them to work at any price and undercut other people's wages, and partly to discourage them from moonlighting at other jobs while being 'supported'. In fact as unemployment is a necessary part of the present capitalist structure, these unemployed are as exploited as if working for a wage except that they receive it from the State, and those who are moonlighting are exploited twice – contributing to the economy as workers and as 'unemployed', and having a greater spending power to stimulate the economy.



An effect of the false shame is to make people falsely proud of not working, as in the rejection of work, masquerading as a form of working class theory. Some of the younger libertarians, brought up in the tradition which says that unemployed are separate from workers, adopt a sort of Catholic cloister ethic, which glorifies withdrawal from worldly life and thinks that by taking handouts from the State instead of from the capitalist they are rejecting State and capitalism.

In 'one big union' the working people will be able to get together, literally to swap jobs and experiences, and organise. We do not glorify work or industrialism as such, we know that most of the jobs we are expected to do at present are shit jobs. But we believe that by organising jobs and making the employers give us proper wages, we are setting into motion a change over of society.

This goes contrary to the notions of 'weekend revolutionaries' whose radicalism never goes on to the job itself and who therefore fall into workaday patterns determined by the capitalist class and the trade unions, and who never challenge them except on the streets.

Some of the notions arising from this alienation from working class struggle need to be challenged. One the notion that, it is hypocrisy to accept any hand-out except from the State (the 'false pride' element have it here) and that working is wrong, or perhaps that particular jobs are wrong. What is always quoted is 'would you organise police?' For obvious tactical reasons one should not accept police into any revolutionary organisation, but there is no moral issue to be made about it. The police are organised, for economic reasons into their own trade union and it is best they stay there. They cannot be acceptable in a syndicalist union but there are people whose jobs are equally 'dirty' – and here we can for once echo the cant liberal phrase 'we are all guilty'.

Some say that social workers are 'soft cops' and even that school teachers are, and there is some justification for both, but then what of the journalists who in many cases 'load the bullets for the police' to fire? Printers are so well organised and militant that their role is seldom questioned but without them the journalists would be confined to broadcasting (the technicians, electricians – are they soft cops too?) Do not enter the armaments industry we are enjoined by some, particularly in war time – yet it is not only the engineers, but the farmworkers and the clothing workers who contribute to the war industry.

It is all part and parcel of exploitation: when we take over we shall make our jobs 'clean'. The major factories may well be decentralised and be broken down to size when the workers take over. Few workers will want to be cogs in a machine when economic necessity doesn't make them. But meanwhile we should penetrate into industry to make sure that the message of workers control percolates right through.

A.M.

Typists note: Capitalists such as Sir Clive Sinclair and Eddie Shah (who came into conflict with the NGA print union during a dispute at a local paper in Warrington in December 1983) have along with a whole section of their ilk gone for 'decentralised totalitarianism' – see Black Flag Quarterly Number 7 – based on the 'new technology' and employing directly only small numbers of people. Heavy industry in Western Europe is being streamlined down and new plants open in the 'third world' where they hope low pay and no strikes will return huge profits. The growth of syndicalist unions, COB in Bolivia, SAAWU in South Africa for example show the multi-national capitalists and the local States in these countries that labour 'problems' and rebel workers are emerging internationally!

Here, small scale hi-tech factories with few workers and in-house (ie. bosses') unions, 7 day a week shopping based on part-time unorganised workers; and the poorly paid 'service industry' – again few workers – expanding with 'privatisation' of National Health Service and local council 'services' outlines a growth in the unemployed that some Tories have said will go up to 10 million, still manageable if they spend, spend spend! The mining industry has been butchered and the best cuts such as the highly automated Selby pit, worked they hope by Notts scab type unionists (ie NCB 'union') remain.

Meanwhile the more forward thinking on the dole are hoping the State will now increase payments, improve YTS slave labour schemes payments and jobs to be learnt, and give shit jobs to robots! Huh!

Finally, in the decade since the start of 'ten years women's liberation' it seems that with the drift to the cities of the women workers, formerly 'peasants' that women as 51% of the world's population own less than 2% of the resources, or put another way one step sideways for some, one step backwards for most! Bring on the syndicalist women's militias! Anarchy.

INTERNATIONAL



This advertisement was taken recently from a North American magazine.

JAMAICA

The Government in Jamaica has taken action against workers who took part in the one week general strike at the end of June. The strike which was organised by the countries six main unions, including the BITU which is supposed to be affiliated to the right-wing Labour Party, was very sucessful at first but lost momentum later in the week when many workers returned without their demands being met.

The strike was directed against Govt. plans which had already made over 17,000 workers redundant in the past year. Other reasons were the soaring cost of living, and a pay increase for the countries 100,000 public sector workers.

The Government has suspended 1,200 firemen who took part in the strike, their job is now being done by troops. Workers have also been suspended in hospitals and power stations. The unions are now considering calling a second strike.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The number of workers unionised in Japan (in 1983) was 29.7% (compared to 34.8% in 1973).
- Women workers in Japan on average receive 43.4% of a man's wage for doing the same job.
- Unemployment in Japan recently went up from 2.7% to 2.8% (this represents 1½ million people).
- Over the last ten years or so the number of workers employed in the farming and fishing industry in Japan has been reduced by 2/3rds. The mining, building and manufacturing industries have also been slightly reduced, while other industries have grown.
- On average, Japanese workers work 200 hours more per year than workers in the United States.

HOME NEWS - EXTRA

WHAT HAVE LLOYD GEORGE & THE QUEEN MOTHER GOT IN COMMON?

At the Mansion House in Doncaster, where the local Labour (NUM members) Council meets, a new members room with bar, has forced out the old printer's room.

The local bureaucrats with snob tastes spent £10,000 on flag poles and £10-15,000 on cleaning chandeliers last year.

At a Technical Services meeting the Chair announced that portraits of Labour Leaders (Nye Bevin, Keir Hardie, Lloyd George etc. . .) had been purchased for an 'undisclose sum' to furnish the walls. Also a framed portrait of the Queen Mother who, 'without doubt is the most popular person with Doncaster people, and as she is Scottish this would please the local Scots in Doncaster'. Labour Councillor Granger was 'overwhelmed that the Queen Mother had agreed' to this.

One dissenter suggested that a more appropriate labour leader would be Jack Cane, Secretary of Armthorpe NUM for many years. This was viewed with horror by the Councillors as J. Came was a life-long member of the Communist Party!

SS ON THE HP

Social Security claimants in need of an emergency payment will in future only get 'loans' and they will have to pay back the money out of their weekly regular payments.

In addition the right to appeal, where emergency payments are refused, is to be abolished — the decision of the DHSS will be final and there will be no independent tribunals or referrals to the Courts.

These changes are in the form of confidential recommendations leaked to a national newspaper. Worst off will be those already worst off — the long-term unemployed, the young, single parents, the homeless, etc. The new system is guaranteed to increase dependency on the Welfare State in that where emergency payments are made, further emergency payments will be needed to pay off the old ones. A kind of social (in)security on the never never'.

CRECHE EVICTED

NO NEGOTIATIONS — despite pickets, letters, phonecalls, Co-op help, petitions, posters...no meeting, no comment just a crowd of police and bailliffs at 7am on the 24th of July to evict the building and throw out kids toys, creche equipment and personal belongings into the street.

The place had been evicted illegally on 19th April os it was quickly resquatted. The situation this time though was to have a Moslem group immediately move their stuff in — divide and rule! As there are so many other empty properties, it has already been moved to a new home, so the creche continues.

Thanks to all those who responded to the appeal in *Black Flag 136* and wrote in protesting! The 'socialist' mini-State is no better than the 'bad' Central Government of the Tory tyrants. What we want is not better or less Government but the freedom to decide our own destinies, anarchy!

The creche can be contacted via: *BM Hurricane London* WC1N3XX.

COP SHOT AT GYPSIES

A POLICE Inspector who fired rifle shots at a gypsy camp site in Ellesmere Port was give a suspended three-month jail sentence by Magistrates in Northwich, Cheshire.

Inspector Howard Roberts (51) who has been a self-confessed 'policeman' for over 30 years, admitted that he had taken a Remington rifle and ammunition from the property room at Ellesmere Port cop shop at approximately 5am on April 25th.

He had then driven in a police panda car to the gypsy site and fired at a van and a car. Two vehicles were damaged and a dog, which was inside the van, was injured. It later died.

Remarkable how easy it is for a cop to go beserk, a good reminder to those who opt for 'neighbourhood watch/community policing' that you might just have let into your home an armed thug!

Who will protect us from our self-appointed 'protectors'? To find out more about your 'rights' in today's Britain, try attending a 'neighbourhhod watch' meeting and telling these mafia that you don't want their 'insurance'.

GREECE

JUDGE EXECUTED

In *Black Flag* No. 134 we reported that a Public Prosecutor, George Theofanopolous had been executed by an armed gang in Athens on April 1st.

Responsibility was claimed by a previously unkown group, *Anti-State Struggle*, whose use of anarchist terminology in their communique to the Press strongly suggests that they're an anarchist group.

A month and a half later, an urban guerilla, Christos Tsoutsouvis, was killed in a gun battle with police in an Athen's suburb. Police are quick to connect him, (Tsoutsouvis) with *Anti-State Struggle*, after his death and claim to have found a prototype of the *ASS* communique plus explosive devices in Tsoutsouvis's flat. After this announcement, another group *Revolutionary People's Struggle* let it be known that Tsoutsouvis was a member of their guerilla group until 1980, when he left to join another armed group.

Anarchists in Athens have printed up leaflets commemorating Tsoutsouvis and compare the execution of Theofanopoulos with the executions of Kings and Presidents by Anarchists at the end of the 19th Century.

ARSON

Other recent acts of resistance in Athens include an attempt to burn down a bank on June 1st. Unfortunately Anarchist militant Victor Armanious (20 years old) has been arrested in connection with this incident and faces a heavy sentence if he is found guilty. A benefit gig on his behalf was organised early in July and a defence group is being formed.

SOURCE : Phillip & Sophia.

COLOMBIA

After the general strike of June 20th (see *Black Flag No.136)*, many of the countries guerrilla groups have broken the 11 month peace pact and returned to active service. This is a response to the violent attack on striking workers by the State security forces, and the mass arrests of strikers.

M-19, one of Colombia's main guerrilla groups took over the town of Genova, population 15,000, on June 28th and shot 9 policemen, an Army officer and several supporters of the ruling political Party.

The ultra right has not been idle either, they have murdered two union organisers who were involved in the general strike.

SWISS AUTONOMISTS HARASSED

Winterburg is a small industrial town near Zurich, Switzerland. In 1984 there were numerous attacks on property in this town plus 32 arson attacks and 6 bombs all were directed against the Army, Banks, Church, shopping centres and the State railroads.

In November 1984, 23 autonomists in Winterburg were arrested in connection with the attacks. On November 21st, 10 were released after intensive interrogation. The remaining 13 were transferred to different prisons and put into isolation.

In Switzerland you can be held indefinitely in prison before being charged. As a result, one of the 13, Gaby, committed suicide when her only 'crime' was putting up some grafitti. 4 out of the 13 are still in prison today.

In Geneva between February and March 1985 several more arson attacks were carried out and claimed by the autonomous cells. On March 30th Andreas Sommer was arrested and accused of being involved in attacks in Geneva and in Winterburg. He is not allowed to see his lawyer until May 30th! As we go to press, he is still not charged with the arson attacks in Geneva — although he has been tried for graffiti offences.

Solidarity greetings can be sent to:

Andreas Sommer,
Bezirk-Sanwaltschaft Winterthur,
Hermann-Gotz — Str. 22,
8400 WINTERTHUR, Switzerland.

CHINA

2 oilfield workers charged with forming an anti-government group and killing a public security officer were executed in Jianjan in northern China on July 3rd.

GUATEMALA

STRIKE AT COKE IS A HIT!

The Coca-Cola boycott called for by the Guatemalan bottling plant workers who occupied their plant (see *BF 135*) has been been called off. The plant is now reopened with the full recognition of the union. More information from: *IUF, 8 rampe du Ponte-Rouge CH-1213 Petit-Lancy, Geneve SUISSE attention Bob Ramsay.*

The Newcastle based band Generic who produced a benefit cassette on behalf of the strikers (*Days of Hope Bookshop, 115 Westgate Rd. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1 4AG)* will be sending on their greetings and donation soon.

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

Dear Black Flag,

I would very much like to make a subscription to *Black Flag*, which I find is a very good paper for any one who wants to know what's going on, not just in their own country, but all over the world.

I found that especially your supplement No. 1 contained some very good and thorough articles and I hope you'll continue with these supplements.

I'll be looking forward to receiving *Black Flag.*

Yours,J .S. Arhus, Denmark.

Dear Friends of the Black Flag Collective,

Here at *Guangara Libertaria*, we greatly appreciate your magazine. We all hope all is going well for you, you have our support. We hope you will be able to continue your superb publication, and we have enclosed a donation so we will be able to keep receiving your magazine.

I am only 13 years old, and help with the retailing of *Guangara Libertaria* to its recipients around the US and the world (we're all doing what we can!) I have now collected 5 *Black Flag* magazines and have learned much about anarchism.

Good luck with *Black Flag!* We send our solidarity and our appreciation!

— David Fernandez.
Hialeah , Florida.
USA

ANARCHISM IN ITALY

Italy has probably one of the healthiest anarchist movements in the world at present. Although it's a minority movement (like everywhere else) it is also well organised, widespread and solid.

On the one hand the Anarchist Federation (the F.A.I.) which (unlike in Spain) is a legal and open organisation and the Italian section of the International Federation of Anarchists (I.F.A.). There are now FAI offices in Bologna, Carrara, Alessandria, Reggio Emilia, Trieste, Rome Livorno, Naples, Empoli, Imola and Milan.

Outside the FAI there are many documentation centres like the N.Papini Centre in Fano, the Documentation Centre in Lucca, the Franco Serantini Library in Pisa, the C. Berneri Anarchist Centre in Milan, the Anarchist Documentation Centre in Rome, the Berneri Family Archive in Pistoia, the Ligure Syndicalist Documentation Centre in Genoa, and the Anarchist Cultural Circle in Carrara.

Finally, there are a wide range of anarchist publications which make the range of anarchist publications here, look very impoverished.

First of all, there's the weekly anarchist paper *Umanita Nova* published by the FAI in Milan. Then there's the monthly *Revista @, Autogestione* (an anarcho-syndicalist, quarterly magazine recently resurrected), *Seme Anarchico* (from Brescia), *L'Internazionale* (from Ancona) *Senzapatria* (anti-militarist paper from Sondria), *Lotta di Classe* (paper of the U.S.I. — the Italian section of the IWA), *Anarchismo* (publishing the works of Alfredo Bonnano), *Crocenera* (Milan), *Sicilia Libertaria, C.R.I.F.A. Bulletin* (from Arezzo) and many more.

The above list isn't by any means complete, but should give you a good idea of the strength and depth of the Anarchist movement in Italy today.

NB. *Black Flag* desperately needs reliable Italian translators! If you are interested in helping out please get in touch.

LATIN AMERICA

IN BRIEF

URUGUAY

Sixty two trade union activists were arrested for distributing leaflets calling for an indefinite strike in the transport sector. After a threat by the transport union FOT to carry out what the leaflet was calling for, the imprisoned trade unionists were released. The civilian Government which took over some months ago from the worst Military dictatorship even known in Latin America (1 in 3 people were either tortured themselves or knew someone who was tortured!), has begun to behave towards the trade union movement in a manner more associated with the Military. So far there has been 160 strikes since 1st of March, most called by the union confederation PIT-CNT as defensive actions against the Government's anti-labour campaign.

PERU

Several thousand public sector workers went on strike bringing the capital, Lima, to almost a standstill. The strike which ran for three weeks brought teachers, postworkers, health workers, tax collectors etc. on the streets. The union behind the strike, Confederacion Intersectorial de Trabajadores Estatales (CITE), was formed in the late 1970's after 30,000 public servants were fired by the then Military regime. At first the C.I.T.E. was illegal but by militant actions it has forced the Government to face reality and talk to the union. Last year the CITE organised a 23 day strike, the present strike is in fact an extension of that dispute. In addition to the unions economic demands they are also demanding information about the 'disappearance' of several members of the union, who are believed to have been murdered by the Military.

ARGENTINA

Four thousand, eight hundred workers occupied the Ford Motor works after the company sacked 33 workers. This action triggered off a wave of similar occupations across the country. The sacking of the 33 workers is only the tip of the iceberg as there is great fears that mass layoffs are planned by the bosses throughout Argentina. So far the Volcan metalworks, Banco Juncal, a cement company, a textile mill, La Esperanza glassworks have all been seized by the workers, the CGT trade union confederation, better known for its support of the fascist Peron than for supporting its members, is now faced with the problem of growing militancy from the rank and file sections who are not willing to bow to Government demands that the working class once again carry the burden of economic cuts and wage freezes.

BOLIVIA'S 'ONE BIG UNION'

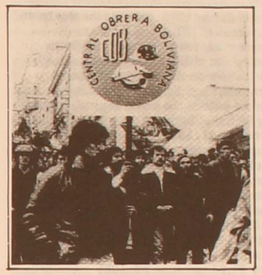
Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in South America. It has an infant mortality rate of more than 157 deaths per thousand and the life expectancy of its people is 48 years. Its 6,000,000 inhabitants are burdened with a debt of $4.4. billion, an inflation rate that defies belief (2700% in 1984) and a 'left' Government that appears to be more than willing to knuckle under to the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But Bolivia also has one of the most combative labour movements in that part of the world. The Central Obrera Boliviana (COB: Bolivian Workers' Centre) has some 800,000 members and has been, since its inception in 1952, the staunchest defender of the democratic process and of worker's rights in Bolivia. It is indeed, the focal point of the hopes and aspirations of the workers and peasants of Bolivia for their liberation and a better life.

The COB is unique among unions in Latin America in that it is completely *independent* of the Government and of *all* political parties (of which there are a maze full) while allowing the widest possible political pluralism within its own ranks. Though representatives of all political philosophies, from the Communist Party on the right to the anarcho-syndicalists on the left, are free to present and defend their differing perspectives, once a decision is made, the *unity* of the workers takes precedence.

The key to the preservation of this *unity* and *autonomy* is the deeply—ingrained democratic and class consciousness of the union's base, particularly within the 50,000 member Miners' Federation, the backbone of the COB, and the peasants union, the Confederacion de Sindicatos Unicos de Trabajadores Campesinos de Bolivia (CSUTCB). The anarcho-syndicalist tradition and the practice of mutual aid are strongest in the mining camps and the rugged rural areas where life is harsh and has made mutual aid mandatory giving rise to the kind of self-reliance and solidarity that seems to be a characteristic of mining communities throughout the world. Equally a tradition in the mining camps is the *general assembly*, where men and women have their voice and vote on all questions relating to the welfare of the community.

An example of this grass-roots democracy at work was the COB's Sixth Congress, held in Cochabamba last September. At this gathering 1200 delegates debated the course of action to take in the face of the mounting economic crisis and the misery it is sowing among the working people of the country. A particularly volatile issue was the question of the COB toward the democratic Government of Hernan Siles Zuazo.



Since Zuazo's assumption of power in November of 1982, the economic crisis has deepened and the demands for austerity by the IMF and the World Bank as the price for continued economic 'assistance' have increased with the result that the working people of Bolivia have been pushed to the wall. The COB has led the resistance to austerity with a campaign of general strikes, road blocks, occupations, and other direct actions to achieve the dual objective of tying wage increases to the cost of living and forcing the Zuazo Government to repudiate the 4.4-billion debt. This opposition to the Government austerity programme of devaluation of the peso coupled with rises in the prices of basic necessities has not prevented the COB from vigorously defending the democratic process against the threat from the right, as it did in June 1984, when a general strike thwarted the coup staged by right wing paramilitary groups and a section of the Army tied to the cocaine trade and backed by Argentina. However once the Government was secured, the COB resumed its campaign in defence of workers' class interests with another general strike.

At the Congress the COB's intransigent stance was challenged by the so-called 'Legalist' faction, led by the Bolivian CP (Communist Party), which argued for support of the Zuazo Government in spite of its 'errors', which the 'Legalists' felt could be rectified, in the hope that points of the Government's 'progressive' program could be implemented (it is not it coincidental that the PCB held Government posts at the time!) They punctuated their arguments with reminders of the 189 coups by the Military suffered in Bolivia over the past 156 years of independence.

The 'Anti-legalists', led by the Unified Revolutionary Directorate (DRU: a coalition of parties and groups of the revolutionary left including the anarcho-syndicalists) countered with the argument that the Government was using the threat of a military coup as a cover for its capitulation to the dictates of the IMF and its anti-working class austerity program. The Zuazo Government is not equidistant from the workers and the capitalists, but is in the camp of the right and imperialism.

The outcome of the debate was a determination to defend the democratic *process* against the rightist threat, as a conquest of the workers' struggle, while at the same time stepping up the campaign to defend and improve the workers' living standards.

The rejection of the 'Legalists' was underscored by the failure of the PCB to win any seats on the newly elected executive committee, including the exterior relations post which had been held by PCB militant Simon Reyes for 20 years.

Since the Congress, the struggle against austerity has intensified. The general strike lasting 16 days in March this year, did not achieve its immediate objective (a 500% wage boost with wages tied to the cost of living), and the workers were forced to retreat in the face of the armed forces of the 'democratic' Government. The class war in Bolivia will undoubtedly get fiercer in the future as the lives of the workers and peasants become even more desperately impoverished. But as long as they have their 'One Big Union' the Bolivian working class stand a fighting chance.

Mike Hargis.
SOURCE : Industrial Worker.

BRAZILIAN ANARCHISTS

On April 14th, 1985 the Libertarian Cultural Centre in Bras opened up once again. Bras, once the working class district of Sao Paulo favoured by Italian immigrants, and a stronghold of the workers movement since the beginning of the century, is once again host to the combattive CCS (Social Cultural Centre), one of the few anarchist organisations to have survived in the country the past 21 years.

Ensconced in 2 modest rooms on the top floor of an old building in the Rua Rubino de Oliveira — from which it had operated up to 1968 — the CCS is now free to unfurl its historic red and black flag. 'Our aim, ' the CCS's general secretary 58 year old shoe-maker Jaime Cubero proudly announces, 'is to retrieve and disseminate libertarian values.' Resurfacing after almost 17 years of enforced absence many of the members of the CCS are, however young people, and aim above all else to serve their apprenticeship. 'We have much to learn about the struggles of the past and the working class.' says one of them, Mathematics teacher, 32 year old Alexandre Santana.

With statutes of its own since January 1933, the CCS originated with the Grupo Filodramatico Social, an organ of the Sao Paulo Labour Federation formed in 1908. At that time, libertarian currents, especially anarcho-syndicalism, wielded considerable influence in the Brazilian labour movement, encouraging several forms of 'class warfare', especially mass strikes like the ones in 1917 and 1919. Today, however, some of the people behind the CCS, among them stage and TV actress Sonia Oiticica (daughter of the late writer and prominent anarchist Jose Oiticica) seek to shrug off certain stereotypes that dog them. 'We are not terrorists, bomb-throwers, or priest-haters as they say around here,' argues 25 year old photographer Wanderley de Oliveira, another of CCS's members.

Above all else they seek dialogue — and co-operation — with the widest spectrum of ideologies, 'provided they espouse freedom and solidarity, like the Liberation Theology Christians, for instance' says Oliveira. Even opting for a political party has ceased to be regarded as as a 'sin'.

Among the almost 100 activists who came together to reorganise the CCS there are several who vote for and are even members of the Workers' Party (P.T.) — and this is at odds with a long standing anarchist idea. Similarly, in their eagerness to gain a foothold in the 'practical world' — an expression of which Mikhail Bakunin, one of the ideologues of Anarchism, was very fond — they do not repudiate political power completely. 'We simply insist that, for a start, power must be managed by the workers themselves, directly, without the screen of bureaucracy,' explains 34 year old steelworker Nazareno Fernandes, who is presently unemployed. The CCS backers also plan, in addition to lectures and debates, educational events, exhibitions, a cine-club and a theatre group.

Elsewhere in the country too the anarchist nostalgics are reorganising. In Rio de Janeiro, 58 year old doctor Ideal Peres has promised to have the historic Jose Oiticica Centre, an association along the lines of Sao Paulo's CCS, open again by the end of the year. There are similar ventures afoot in Caxias do Sul, Salvador and Bahia.

It is impossible to reckon the number of anarchists today in Brazil. Optimistically, Peres reckons that militants and their sympathisers together number 3 - 4,000. But it is hard to settle on an exact figure. 'After all', mused Cubero, a leading light in his youth of workers' theatre 'anarchists are against these bureaucratic preoccupations'.

SOURCE : Article from the Sao Paulo paper **ISTO E**, *reprinted in* **A Batalha**, *Lisbon,* June/July 1985.

NB. It comes across as a 'quaint people' type of journalese all this 'anarchist nostalgics' tale but nevertheless reveals there is a resurgence underway that even these type of journalists cannot ignore. More information as it comes to hand.

LETTER FROM VENEZUELA



Dear friends at Black Flag,

Greetings from Latin America! We hope you and your family and friends in england are okay.

We've been meaning to write to you for some time now when finally we saw your address in the Argentinian paper *El Libertario.*

Things here aren't so good; the cost of living and unemployment rises daily, this results in a very worrying situation for the working people in Venezuela. Imports have stopped coming in when our currency (the Bolivar) was devalued. There's no longer any guarantee that investment within our country will continue either because the banks have gone bankrupt and are all closed down. Everyone's savings has thus suffered badly as a result.

On May the First, a group of Anarchists met in Caracas to discuss re-building an Anarchist Federation in Venezuela. A committee to co-ordinate this was set up as a result. I'll let you know what happens at our next meeting.

The main reason for writing this letter is to start regular contact with you over in England. *Black Flag* in Spanish is written *Bandera Negra*, the symbol of the International Anarchist Movement. We do our best to organise against our enemy Authority, which grows stronger and more stupid every day. We watch people get hung for fighting for freedom under right-wing dictatorships in Chile and Paraguay as well as under left-wing dictatorships in Cuba, Russia, Poland and possibly a future Nicaragua.

If you could send us any publications we would be very grateful as we don't receive much foreign news. We were told about the end of the Miners' Strike by people at *Spectacular Times*. In Venezuela the newspapers only print 'official' press releases from the British government. We were very sad to see what happened at that football match between Italy and England. I don't think you can judge a whole people by what a small bunch of fanatics does. In the 19th Century, for example, English settlers helped rid our country of its tyrants.

Write soon. That's all for now.

Salud Companeros!

Down with world armament!

Long live Anarchy!

G.P.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

K. OMORI STILL ON DEATH ROW

K. Omori is a Japanese Anarchist who was arrested on August 10, 1976 and accused of bombing Government offices on the island of Hokkaido in 1976. Hokkaido is the Japanese word for their colony which to the natives is Ainu-Moshiri.

His trial began in February 1977 and it dragged on until March 29th, 1983, when he was found guilty and sentenced to death The trial was a farce. The Prosecution could only find one witness who 'noticed' Omori on the night of the bombing. They also suggested that because Omori didn't have a fire-extinguisher in his house then he must have used it to make a bomb. Unfortunately for Omori, who has always protested his innocence, in Japan a Judge can interpret evidence (or lack of it) any way they please and can therefore sentence a person to death just because they don't like your attitude or face! This is exactly what happened in Omori's case. He is still on death row today after 9 years in jail. He has lodged an appeal against the death sentence and a second trial is now taking place at the High Court in Sapporo. The second trial began in June, 1984 and will continue until the end of 1985 or to the beginning of 1986.

If Omori wins his Appeal the Public Prosecutor has made it known that he will take the case to the Supreme Court. If Omori loses this Appeal he will lodge another.

There are now 4 Omori Support groups in Japan. In Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Sapporo. We received the following summary of the second trial from a member of the Tokyo Support Group.

June 12, 1984 — Statement of the defense.
June 13, 1984 — Reply from the Public Prosecutor. Statement from the accused.
July 5, 1984 — Evidence is examined.
August 28th, 1984 — Defence starts to cross-examine witnesses. A Hokkaido Government Official testifies that he did not see any explosives (placed in front of a lift) at a time when the Public Prosecutor asserts they were there.
September 18, 1984 — A friend of Omori explains his beliefs.
October 11, 1984 — A so-called eye witness for the Prosecution is exposed as a liar.
November 13, 1984 — A friend of Omori's Saburo Kato, goes through Omori's movements during 1976, the year the Hokkaido Government Office was bombed.
January 22, 1985 — Omori's landlords testify that although they didn't actually see his face on the morning the bomb went off, they did notice that his car was parked outside the house as usual, suggesting he was at home.
February 21, 1985 — A police officer admits disguising himself as a refuse collector in order to go through Omori's dustbin.
March 19th, 1985 — One of Omori's friends tells the Court he sent Omori some books through the post and not explosives as the Public Prosecutor suggested.
April 25, 1985 — The Head Judge is changed.
May 21,24 and June 20, 1985 — Omori's friend, Sanae Ota, tells the Court about Omori's movements at the time of the bombing.

From now onwards the Public Prosecutor will put forward their case. There will be between 5 and 10 hearings held monthly and starting on July 23rd, then August 22, September 17, October 15, November 14, December 12 and January 21, 1986. Judgement should be reached by this time.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?
Don't forget! Omori will probably be murdered for something he never did. Enough International Solidarity from here and elsewhere could make the difference between *life and death*. Re-print this information and give it the widest publicity.



Write and protest to the Japanese Embassy *c/o 46 Grosvenor Street, London W1 Tel 01-493 6030, 493 2103 or 493 2475.*

Send support letters to Omori via his Support Group:

c/o No. 35, Chitose PO Box, Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo.

Picket Japanese businesses, it causes great embarassment to them, as many people do not know they still execute people in Japan today!

Send donations to Omori's Support Group or via the Anarchist Black Cross /Black Flag address: BM Hurricane *BM Hurricane, London,* WC1N3XX

It will be too late to support Omori after he is murdered by the State, act now.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS – DENMARK

The first recent Black Cross group in this country (there may have been Black Cross support work done for the victims of the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution) was formed in the early seventies. But the only thing we know for sure about this group is, that it produced at least two issues of a bulletin, one of them solely dedicated to the Pinelli case. (Italian @ Black Cross Secretary murdered by the police in Milan) The only other reference we have been able to find is in a paper from a group called ORA (Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists), where it is called a group only existing on paper. The ORA-paper — being an explanation of the closing down of the organisation/group — is throughout very disillusioned about organised anarchist work in Denmark. It is very likely that most of the people involved in this Black Cross work have vanished from the anarchist scene.

The second attempt to start Black Cross work was in 1981. This time the group was formed of people belonging to the ASO, (the Anarcho-Syndicalist Organisation, the Danish section of the International Workers Association) though for practical reasons the group was autonomous — that is affiliated but not belonging to the ASO. The group built up a number of contacts with libertarian prisoners and got into contact with refugees from Latin America living in Denmark. This group of refugees published a couple of issues of a magazine in Spanish — *La Revista* — and formed together with the rest of the group into a *Libertarian Aid to Latin America* group.

Because of various reasons most of the people involved in the group lost interest in the work. In '83 the two remaining members of the original group decided to start working on a small bulletin containing articles on libertarian prisoners, and repression, etc.

BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE DANISH ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS GROUP

The group is affiliated to the international Black Cross. The purpose of the group is to aid isolated, imprisoned and persecuted libertarians morally and materially; and to distribute information about their conditions; secondary and in specific cases to cooperate with other persons or organisations in aiding other persecuted. The group is deciding in each case, who it wants to support.



The first issue of Rekyl *magazine.*

The group is open to all persons interested — but new members must be accepted by all other members, because of some confidential material that might come into the hands of the group.

THE PRESENT SITUATION AND WORK

The group has now re-established the contacts that were left 'floating' after the dissolution of the group, and we are trying to establish new contacts — both in prisons in various countries and with groups involved in anti-State work.

We are at the present two persons in the group, which of course puts some limitations on the amount of work we can carry out, but we are quite satisfied with the level of activity.

Together with ASO, a picket of the Japanese embassy was carried out in '84, while a protest-note was sent to the Japanese Government concerning the case of K. Omori. Because of the lack of information about the case, no action has been taken since, but the re-trial might lead to more.

We are also aware that groups sympathising with the Black Cross are doing work in connection with our work — though at other levels.

We have had some cooperation with a local radio-station in Copenhagen, sending news and information about the condition of Spanish prisoners and other events in Barcelona, such as squatting. Although a settled routine has not yet been established, we have some expectations of future cooperation with these people.

PUBLICATIONS

As mentioned above, we began publishing a bulletin in 1983. Most of our work for the first year or so was dedicated to this project. The bulletin came out at irregular intervals in '83-'84. This year we decided to start a 'proper' magazine.

With the name *Rekyl* a May and June issue of this magazine has been published and we are working on the August issue. We hope to be able to publish this paper once a month in the future. And hope people in and out of this country will send send us either articles or information to base articles upon.

Anarchist Black Cross, Denmark. July 1985.

LIBERTARIAN PRISONERS IN EASTERN EUROPE

Are there any anarchists in prison in the Eastern Bloc? We recently wrote to *IZTOK* (A libertarian journal specialising in Eastern Europe) and received the following reply.

Dear Black Flag,

Forgive us for the slight delay in answering your query but we had some difficulty in collecting together the information you required.

First of all we should point out that it is better to talk of 'libertarian' prisoners in the Eastern bloque rather than anarchist prisoners. In reality anarchism is a forbidden philosophy, and on the whole people are badly informed. In spite of this there are a few who claim, fully or partially, to be anarchists. But, more often than not, they also hold beliefs that would seem to be sacrilegious to 'orthodox' Western anarchists.

There are, therefore, a number of libertarian prisoners in the East. Unfortunately most of them (in Russia and the R.D.A.) are in prison for reasons other than their libertarian views (eg. pacifism/anti-militarism, dissidency etc.) and to defend them as anarchists would only aggravate their situation. We know quite a few anarchists in Hungary but they aren't in jail at the moment (and we hope they never get there!).

In Yugoslavia, 6 dissidents, including a few libertarians, were put on trial last Winter. They were eventually released when the trial was adjourned, but there's still a chance they will be sent to prison when the trial re-opens.

In Bulgaria all the elderly anarchist militants have been released from prison but they still live under surveillance in the countryside.

In Poland there are a number of libertarians active underground but as far as we know they haven't been arrested.

In Russia we know that 3 members of 'Left Opposition' — a libertarian Marxist group active in Leningrad between 1976 and 1978 — are now in prison. The were imprisoned for belonging to SMOT, the free trade union. One of them, Skobov, is a libertarian. We don't know about the others.

We're trying to get more up-to-date information about them but it isn't easy.

We'll send any new information on to you. Find enclosed with this letter a leaflet published by friends of 2 Polish prisoners. They are class war, rather than libertarian, prisoners. (see *Black Flag No.136)*

Anarchist greetings,
N.W.

Readers should also check out *Volya*, a libertarian review of contemporary events in 'Communist' governed States.

VOLYA 83 Gregory Crescent, Eltham, London SE95RZ.

CLYDESIDE ANARCHIST GETS ONE YEAR

Gus MacInnes, a Clydeside Anarchist and Animal Rights Campaigner, was sentenced to 1 years imprisonment on July 16 for being involved in a scheme to highlight the suffering of animals in laboratories by contaminating lucozade bottles with urine and placing them in Boots Stores in Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness and Stirling. The contaminated bottles were clearly marked with an X and Boots were immediately told to remove all bottles from their shelves after a statement on behalf of the Animal Liberation Army was sent to newspapers, TV and radio.

Gus was also involved in occupying Price Waterhouse office in Glasgow during the miners strike and collected regularly for the miners.

Please donate generously to the Gus MacInnes Support Group either at the TSB (Account No. 3925) or c/o Clydeside Anarchists, 53 Cochrane Street, Glasgow. G1. 1HL.

LETTER FROM BRISTOL

Dear Black Flag,

Well Bristol Black Cross has managed to strike again — we had another benefit on the 8-7-85, this time to raise some cash for the Clydeside @s. The gig featured *SEARS* and a punk combo from Norway, *BAAVLYST.*

Due to a few extra expenses we only made £25, but we hope to improve on that before sending the cash North.

Enclosed is our newest re-print — *Towards Anarchism* by E. Malatesta — as it's only 15p, we'll take a Stamped Addressed Envelope, plus 15p worth of stamps for it!

Love.
Bristol @s.

Box 010, 110 Cheltenham Road, BRISTOL 6.

THAILAND

DEATHS IN PRISON

7 prisoners died, 5 by gunfire, 2 by hanging themselves when Special police units stormed Bang Kwang maximum security jail where inmates had been protesting at harsh living conditions.

COMMENT

Three Years After the Falklands/ Malvinas War

In Argentina, April 2nd 1985, was used once again to demand the recovery of the Falklands Islands, invaded by the military in April 1982. They consider an irresponsible action that sent thousands of young Argentinians to their graves as an 'achievement'. This demand doesn't only come from the ultra-right wing but from the left-wing parties as well! The latter assume a totally contradictory position. On the one hand they criticise the military government for its anti-popular policies and its subordination the Yankee imperialism, yet on the other hand they define the same actions of the military government as anti-imperialist (I refer to the invasion of the Falklands Islands). These left-wing groups (the Communist Party, the Peronist left etc) are unwittingly approving a military dictatorship that took the decision to send a generation of young Argentinians to the holocaust. The government never invaded the Islands to fight against imperialism or colonialism, but to stay in power. The pro-imperialist, pro-colonist position of the military regime wasn't a secret either. In fact, the military dictatorship was one of the principal allies of the South African regime (which still occupies Namibia and suppresses the majority black population), the Israeli government (who stole Palestinian land, creating a refugee population) and an intimate ally of the main exponent of Western Imperialism, the Reagan administration.

Galtieri's objectives (the then military president) by recovering these islands, was to win popularity (exploiting the nationalistic feelings of the Argentinian population), allowing him to be eligible for future presidential elections. In this way, Galtieri and the civilian-military sectors that supported him (i.e. the right and ultra-right) would achieve a form of continuity, under a 'democratic' guise, to the murderous policies developed by the military government from 1976 onwards.

It's necessary to follow the events that lead to the outbreak of the Falklands war in order to demonstrate the anti-popular and falsely anti-imperialist character that was behind the military dictatorship's decision to invade the Falklands (and other South Atlantic Islands).



In the first few months of 1982, they concentrated on establishing a large amount of contacts with the upper echelons of the north-American government. One of the main objectives behind these contacts was to anticipate the possible reaction of the USA in the event of a military invasion of the Falklands. The top military figures arrived at the conclusion (totally inaccurate as it later turned out) that the 'Yankees' wouldn't directly support Argentina, but that they wouldn't support Britain either, and would try to arrive at an agreement between the two countries so that the Islands would eventually become Argentinian property. The Argentinian military wanted to use their excellent relations with Reagan's government in order to regain the islands. The Argentinian military were also active in Central America (deceitfully) against the Sandinistas and Salvadorian guerrillas. This involvement was so important at the beginning of 1982 that Argentina was the main source of finance and training for the anti-Sandinistas. The military wanted to step up even further their involvement, with the aim of converting the USA into a close ally and combating 'communism' on the continent (they thought they were fighting the 'Third World War!) A part of this plan was a project by the Argentinian Chancery to support entry into TIAR (InterAmerican Treaty of Reciprical Aid). This project was initiated in Buenos Aires by T. Enders (the then Secretary of State in charge of Inter-American matters) in March 1982. The first meeting of TIAR saw the creation of an inter-American force to invade Nicaragua and destroy the 'communist danger' as its objective and the re-establishment of 'Western and Christian' values in the Region. Acting in this manner, the military dictatorship thought it could recover the Falklands without risk. Once they had captured the Islands, the military hoped they would thank their North American allies for staying neutral during the dispute with Britain. The USA would be compensated by an increased involvement on the part of the Argentinian Government in the repression of the revolutionary movements on the continent. Galtieri, after seeing North-America's pro-British stance that ruined his sinister dreams, lamented the fact that 'we could have done so many things together' (i.e. together with Yankee imperialism).

Galtieri and his followers believed that the British Government, on seeing the Falklands invaded, would only resort to verbal protests and not a military reply. He wanted to reach an agreement with Britain by indemnifying the Falklands Island Company (the company that had a monopoly on all economic activity on the islands) and letting the Islanders emigrate if they wished. He also hoped to offer economic co-operation with those British firms who wanted to exploit, along with Argentina, the Island's petrol, fish and Krill. Therefore, British firms would obtain substantial economic benefits and the British Government wouldn't have to waste any more money on administering these far-away, frozen islands.

Despite all these plans, the Argentinian military collapsed. The USA didn't remain neutral, allowing Britain to resort to taking up arms against the Argentinian Invasion. The North-American showed the Argentinian Military that American interests were better served by aligning themselves with Britain (and maintaining stability in NATO) rather than with Argentinian torturers in Latin-America.

In the face of the attitude of their North-American 'ally', the Argentinian Military were completely knocked off balance. They never imagined that the North-American Government would side with Britain. And what help! From the use of military bases to spy satellites. How could the Argentinian Military fight against its western allies? How could it be in conflict with the pillars of western civilisation and Christianity, who the military said they represented!

So the war had a logical outcome; and Argentina surrendered and the useless sacrifice of young Argentinian soldiers, abandoned by the Argentinian Military hierarchy who didn't want to fight its own allies. We stress this point because the Argentinian soldiers were conscripts and not mercenaries like the British troops. The officers, sub-officers and mercenaries had chosen their profession and were aware of the dangers of death or mutilation, yet the Argentinian soldiers didn't choose to go to war, but were forced to fight a war they didn't want and for which they weren't prepared.

For these reasons, on this new anniversary of the Falklands War, we restate our repudiation of the Argentinian Military Government's decision taken on April 2nd 1982, as we repudiate all imperialist wars.

We also pay homage to the fallen soldiers (assassinated by their respective governments) in a war for a few pieces of frozen land.

SOURCE: Enzo (Rosario)

Ethiopia, Israel & the Falashas

When there is a major disaster, the natural response through the ages has been to shift from the disaster zone. Only with the rise of the nation State, which presumes to lay down limits within which those in power claim full sovereign rights, has this become a near impossibility, no matter what disaster strikes the planet. Given the vast scope of the tragedy of famine that has hit Ethiopia, thousands move on, and are met with barriers. When hordes of cattle cross frontiers, this is reckoned a great blessing — in fact, battles are fought over possession. What is reckoned a disaster is *people*. Nobody wants *them*.

Africans who were at a primitive level of culture were highly valued when they could be sold as slaves, and then the famines of Africa were regarded as immense strokes of luck, (or as Divine intervention), delivering the helpless victims. Now the escaping Africans are left to die but that highly malleable product, 'world conscience' draws the line at that and so it helps in the only way left, by charity hand-outs diluted by corruption. The magnitude of the disaster is such that this is like a snow ball in hell.

THE FALASHAS

The Israelis have stepped in and airlifted ten to twenty thousand Falashas — Ethiopians who are Jewish by their religion but clearly of another race to the Israelis in general (only a few of whom are ethnically Semitic, and equally the descendants of converts to the religion despite the various myths). It has upset the package-deal Left — 'Zionism equals racism' — for everyone knows how ten or twenty Black Christians turning up at Heathrow would fare, or for that matter ten or twenty Black Marxists at Moscow. But the nationalist impetus of Israel is based not on an ethnic-racialist myth, rather on a religious one which takes converts reluctantly but has over the years incorporated them as part of the 'race'.

Nevertheless the Israeli Government must still reckon with the economic realities of the situation. Can it, in a country no bigger than Wales, surrounded by enemies and on a fairly permanent war basis, with raging inflation, afford to take in 10,000 or 20,000 Black Immigrants? *Of course it can*. The myth propagated in Great Britain, and many other countries, is that immigrants are a liability. But then the government of Britain is trying to run the country down down, to close its assets, to push the working class out of jobs, hopefully to get them to take on the odd jobs of servicing the middle class (such as to leave the mines and get jobs as parking attendants), it encourages emigration and sees immigration as a danger. The Israelis are trying to build up a country, to encourage immigrants and re-train people from being peddlers and traders to become workers. The acquisition of people from all over the world is therefore seen as a major asset as it was in Europe after WWII. The fact that the Ethiopian Jews have a low level of civilisation does not matter in the slightest — in a few years they will have absorbed the new culture. The barriers are totally artificial.

The reason that immigrants from advanced parts of Africa, not to mention the Caribbean and Asia, are regarded as a liability in England — and are non-existent in the Marxist countries — has nothing to do with lack of compassion or charity, and the Israeli Government have shown themselves as unyielding as anybody in this respect. The fact is that PEOPLE are a major asset and this is recognised by the Israeli Government now because it is building a nation out of scattered tribes over the world — exactly as the United States did. It may be that when the melting-pot has produced the same sort of unified state as in America, it too will revise its immigration Laws. It may even come to need forced resettlement — like Britain today, or Marxist Ethiopia — but certainly not now — quite the reverse. Israel can afford to glow in the fact that while the United Nations assembly equates Zionism with racism, it is the only one that is gladly admitting Africans as citizens, — not only just the only one in Europe or the Communist bloc, but even in Africa, — and recognising how they can build the country up and be absorbed in the prevalent national corpus, to mutual advantage.

Any form of nationalism however 'progressive' it may seem in it's years of struggle against the superior forces of another Power, becomes a tyranny when it gets power itself. When the classes of the same 'nation' are united, the rich who collaborated get richer, those who fought aspire to power fo themselves.

ZIONISM

This should not blind one to the reactionary role of Zionism. Any form of nationalism, however progressive it may seem in its years of struggle against the superior force of another Power, becomes a tyranny when it gets power; when the classes of the same nation are united, the rich who collaborated get richer, those who fought aspire to power. In Israel, it has gone only a slightly different route. In its early days when it was confronting imperialism, but bargaining with it as well, the Left and especially pacifists were heralding the kibbutzim as the germ of a new order; they were never that. Now what has grown up inside Israel is a sort of parliamentary version of party rule.

Begin's late victory represented a backlash of the Oriental Jews, who were later immigrants, against Labour politicians who went back to the early Zionist days; a sort of geriatric Old Guard similar to that in Ireland's politics — Labour is Israel's Fianna Fail and the Likud it's Fine Gael — but on live on the protection of the party — outside Israel Zionism has copied the international Communist bureaucracy, building up a vast related network able to operate an intelligence service which even Arab rulers co-operate with to combat their own revolutionary movements; and a middle class social network that perpetuates the Jewish-Zionist myth and balances the budget by well organised funding as well as operating as a political pressure group

Though it has become general among anti-semites to equate all Jews with Zionists (and is a ploy used to disguise anti-semitism, a give-away for hidden fascists, as anti-Zionism), real Zionists owe allegiance to the interests of a State and manipulate political alliances accordingly, leading their followers to back any regime, however repulsive it may be to others and even themselves, provided that they are 'sound' on Israel. Hence the apparent contradiction between Israel's actions in Africa North and Africa South.

A. Meltzer.